time for completion of formalities has no adverse effect on the Corporation's efficiency and proper completion of formalities is in the interest of the proposers.

National Library, Kolkata

*33. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to convert the National Library, Kolkata into an autonomous institution;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the National Library worked without a librarian from 1972—1983 and again from 1995—2001;

(d) whether during the last few years Directors of the Library were appointed either on part time basis or on *ad hoc* basis; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) and (b) The National Library Act, 1976 provides for giving autonomous status to the National Library, Kolkata. No decision has been taken so far regarding enforcement of the Act.

(c) Yes, Sir. A regular Principal Library and Information Officer is in place since July, 2001.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The person appointed as Director, National Library in 1998 left the Organization abruptly within 6 months of his joining. The post has since been filled up on *adhoc* basis. Efforts made to fill the vacancy on regular basis through UPSC have not been successful so far.

Customs duties on imported foreign liquor

*34. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the additional customs duties on imported foreign liquor has been reduced from what it was in the previous year;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the reduction will result in considerably encouraging the import of cheap liquor into the country; and

(d) what is the justification for such encouragement of imports in view of the Constitutional provisions and the various restrictions imposed on the domestic industry?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The rates of Additional Duty of Customs, are given below :

Prior to 01-03-2002	
CIF price per case	Rate
Upto US $ 20	150%
Upto US $ 40	100%
Above US $ 40	75%
With effect from 01-03-2002	
CIF price per case	Rate
Upto US $ 25	75%
Exceeding US $ 25	50%

(c) and (d) The rates of Additional Customs Duty have been fixed so as to provide adequate protection to the domestic industry.

Complaints against New Pricing System

*35. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints in the wake of the dismantling of administered price mechanism with regard to petroleum products from April 1, 2002;